

REMARKS

Claims 2-19 were pending in the above-identified application when last examined and remain in the form previously considered.

Claims 11 and 16-19 were allowed.

Claims 2, 8, 10, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,583,010 (Mo) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,655,457 (Duffy).

Claims 9, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mo.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mo in view of page 420 of Sze, "Semiconductor Devices, Physics and Technology," 1985.

In response, Applicants are submitting a "Declaration of Prior Invention Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131" signed by inventor, Richard K. Williams. The declaration shows a date of invention of the subject matter of claims 2, 5-10, and 12 that is before March 31, 1999, the effective date of Mo. Accordingly, Mo is not prior art against claims 2, 5-10, and 12, and Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 3, 4, and 13-15 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected claim but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 4, and 13-15 remain in dependent form, but Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 3, 4, and 13-15 since their respective base claims are allowable for the reasons given above.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application including claims 2-19. Please contact the undersigned attorney at (408) 927-6700 if there are any questions concerning the application or this document.

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:

ED 614 121 186 US

Respectfully submitted,



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